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Commission on the Status of Women
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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Japan: draft resolution

Gender equality and the empowerment of women in natural disasters

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Bearing in mind that natural disasters affect all human lives and living conditions thereafter, and often have a more direct impact on women as well as vulnerable people such as children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and that natural disasters may have different impacts on men and women in regard to the associated risks and vulnerabilities, including economic opportunities, safety and family responsibilities,

Recalling the commitments regarding women and girls affected by natural disasters in the Beijing Platform for Action[1] and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] and reaffirming that the outcome document stressed the need to incorporate a gender perspective into disaster prevention, mitigation and recovery strategies,

Recalling also the agreed conclusions of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women of 15 March 2002,[3] Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 49/5 of 11 March 2005 and 55/1 of 4 March 2011, the Hyogo Declaration[4] and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
[2] Resolution S-23/3, annex.
[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 7* (E/2002/27), chap. I, sect. A.
[4] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

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Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[5] adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which was held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, as well as all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Welcoming the response of the affected countries as well as the support and assistance given by the international community in the relief and recovery efforts for natural disasters in all parts of the world, including the devastating earthquake that struck eastern Japan in March 2011, and other recent natural disasters, including those addressed in recent General Assembly resolutions and humanitarian appeals, while stressing the importance of further efforts in such responses, including in the area of gender-sensitive disaster management,

Stressing the importance of taking into account women and vulnerable people, including children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, in every phase of disaster management, and of securing their participation in these processes in order to build an inclusive society supported by a social bond among people through human-centred and community-based approaches, and emphasizing that such a society should promote gender equality and reduce social vulnerabilities for disasters,

1. *Recognizes* that women play a vital role in disaster risk reduction (prevention, mitigation and preparedness), response and recovery, including rehabilitation and reconstruction, and the need to enhance women's capacities to respond to disasters;

2. *Urges* Governments and, where appropriate, United Nations entities, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to:

(a) Review national policies, strategies and plans and take action to integrate a gender perspective into policies, planning and funding for disaster risk reduction, response and recovery, considering the different impacts that natural disasters have on women and men;

(b) Ensure equal opportunities for the participation of women in decision-making, including with regard to the allocation of resources at all levels regarding disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

(c) Strengthen the capacities of relevant authorities and institutions at all levels to apply a gender-sensitive approach to disaster risk reduction (prevention, mitigation and preparedness), response and recovery, while raising their awareness, and promote cooperation among them;

(d) Ensure the full enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights in every phase of disaster risk reduction (prevention, mitigation and preparedness), response and recovery;

(e) Provide disaster response and support for recovery that is sensitive to the needs and views of women, including pregnant women and families with infants, such as the provision of food and supplies, the set-up and management of shelter, safety and security, physical and psychological health care and counselling services, while ensuring the involvement of female professionals and field workers;

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[5] Ibid., resolution 2.

(f) Ensure that in post-disaster environments special attention is given to the prevention of various forms of exploitation, including sexual and gender-based violence and the risk of trafficking and girls', including orphans', particular vulnerability, as well as protection, care and support for the victims of violence and the provision, as appropriate, of legal and other relevant services for them to aid, inter alia, in the investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence, taking into account women's needs so as to avoid their revictimization;

(g) Design and implement gender-sensitive economic relief and recovery projects, including vocational and technical skills training measures, in order to help ensure equal economic opportunities between men and women, paying attention to eliminating obstacles to women's rapid integration or reintegration into the formal employment sector, owing to their role in the social and economic process and taking into account the rural and urban migration that natural disasters may provoke;

(h) Promote income-generating activities and employment opportunities for women affected by natural disasters, particularly rural women, including through supporting the community-based businesses, the establishment of necessary social services and the provision of access to market, credit and other financial services;

(i) Ensure women and men's equal access to natural-hazard early warning systems and promote disaster risk reduction planning, taking into account the specific needs, views and rights of women and men, and raise public awareness and provide training at all levels on gender-sensitive approaches to disaster risk reduction, including in the areas of science and technology;

(j) Ensure women and girls' equal access to and use of information, training and formal and non-formal education on disaster risk reduction so that women and girls can make full use of those resources;

(k) Systematically collect demographic and socio-economic data and information disaggregated by sex, age and disability and continue to develop gender indicators and analyse gender differences, including through gender-sensitive needs assessment and planning processes, and integrate this information into disaster risk reduction and management policies and programmes;

(l) Document and assess disaster responses from a gender perspective and widely disseminate, both nationally, regionally and internationally, information on good practices, lessons learned and tools, including technologies in support of disaster risk reduction, in order to promote and ensure their integration into disaster risk reduction planning;

(m) Recognize and further promote the role of civil society, including community-based organizations, women's organizations and volunteers, in disaster management and in promoting the building of an inclusive, disaster-resilient society that ensures women's full participation;

(n) Recognize also the important role played by female professionals and volunteers, inter alia, in meeting women's needs and further encourage their participation in disaster risk reduction, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery;

(o) Forge constructive partnerships among all stakeholders, including Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant actors, such as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, in order

to strengthen gender perspectives in all aspects of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

3. *Encourages* Governments, the United Nations system and regional organizations, and invites donors and assisting countries, to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming and the allocation of resources in their disaster reduction, response and recovery efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

4. *Requests* all relevant United Nations entities, according to their mandate, to ensure that gender perspectives continue to be mainstreamed into all aspects of disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

5. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to promote gender dimensions in its activities on disaster risk reduction, including at the third World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2015;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.